Bank of Baroda has reported that it does not have any branch in Connaught Place. However, its branches in Connaught Circus have not received any application for sanction of credit facilities for purchase of commercial vehicles during the last six months.

सी०आर०पी०एफ० और बी०एस०एफ० में मुसलमानों की नियुक्ति

3436. **श्री मौलाना असद मदनी :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जनवरी, 1987 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1988 के दौरान सी० आर० पी० एफ० और बी० एस० एफ० में कांस्टेबल के तौर पर अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय (मुसलमान) के कुल कितने व्यक्ति नियुक्त किये गये और इस संबंध में पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कार्मिक लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्) : केन्द्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल और सीमा सुरक्षा बल में कांस्टेबलों के पदों पर भर्तियां योग्यता के आधार पर की जाती हैं, न कि समुदाय, धर्म जाति के आधार पर। चूंकि कांस्टेबलों की भर्ती से संबंधित धर्म-वार आंकड़े रखने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है, अतः समुदायवार सूचना देना संभव नहीं हैं।

Reduction in tax on medicine

3437. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax on medicine is 63 paise per rupee and this is the reason for the high cost of drugs to consumers as has been brought out by the Indian Drug Maunfacturers' Association in their circular dated the 13th January, 1989 addressed to Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the taxes on drugs, so as to make them available to the common man at a cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The central excise duty on medicines varies from zero to 15.75 per cent *ad valorem*. In addition, taxes such as sales tax are levied by the State Governments and other authorities. The incidence of duties levied by the Central Government on drugs and medicines manufactured in the country is not very high. There is no proposal at present to reduce the taxes on drugs and medicines.

Payment of dues to the employees of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank

3438. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any cases of employees of the Lakshmi Commercial Bank who retired from the said Bank before its take over and merger with the Canara Bank and have not yet been paid the terminal benefits;

(b) if so, what are the names of such employees and the reasons for such inordinate delay in payment of such dues; and

(c) by when these employees are likely to be paid their dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central assistance for providing irrigation facilities in Tribal areas

3439. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have any plan to provide irrigation facilities in the tribal areas in the country on priority basis; and

(b) If so, the projects identified in different tribal areas for the purpose and particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments and Central assistance is generally given in the form of block loans and grants. However, Special Central Assistance is provided to the States for minor irrigation schemes under the Tribal Sub-plan. Ministry of Welfare has accorded administrative approval for funding from Special Central Assistance towards the capital cost of 45 lift irrigation projects in Koraput district of Orissa and an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs as additional Special Central Assistance towards the capital cost of these schemes has been released to the State Government during 1988-89.

Representation in MPEDA

3440. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the representation in Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is monopolised by certain areas and interests;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter; and

(c) what steps are being taken to enhance representation for Orissa and Eastern Maritime States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Eastern Maritime States are adequately represented in the Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Irregularities in fixed deposit accounts of Punjab and Sind Bank Dibrugarh branch

3441. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman and Managing Director, Punjab and Sind Bank had received a detailed representation in September, 1983 regarding serious irregularities and complete inaction pertaining to certain fixed deposit account on the part of its Dibrugarh branch;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action was taken thereon.

(c) whether the said fixed deposits were later on transferred to Vasant Vihar (New Delhi) branch and then to Green Park Extension branch of the Bank without removing the said irregularities; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Green Park branch officials of the Bank have been harassing the concerned fixed deposit account holders; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that a complaint was received from a deposit holder of its Dibrugarh Branch in 1983. The complaint was got investigated by the Bank. According to the Bank, the party had some Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs) with the aforesaid branch of the Bank. Loans were obtained by the party against the FDRs. The bank had adjusted on maturity some of the FDRs towards settlement of part of the outstanding in the loan accounts which became irregular. The bank had retained one FDR (due to mature at a later date) as security for settlement of the balance outstanding in loan account. At the request of the party, the FDR retained as security was transferred first to Vasant Vihar branch and again to Green Park Extension Branch. While transferring the FDR, the bank had